

**Introduced by Senator Simitian**

**(Principal coauthors: Senators Berryhill, De León, Liu, and Wyland)**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Charles Calderon, Fuentes, Gatto, and Portantino)

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 23—Relative to the Armenian Genocide.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 23, as introduced, Simitian. Armenian Genocide: day of remembrance.

This measure would designate April 24, 2012, as “California Day of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923.” It would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, One and one-half million men, women, and  
2 children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide  
3 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, inclusive;  
4 and  
5 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide and massacre of the  
6 Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate  
7 all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old;  
8 and  
9 WHEREAS, To this day, revisionists, including the Republic  
10 of Turkey, still deny the existence of these horrific events; and  
11 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and openly  
12 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians,

1 California residents demonstrate their sensitivity to a need for  
2 constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future; and

3 WHEREAS, Recognition of the 97th anniversary of this  
4 genocide is crucial to preventing the repetition of future genocides  
5 and educating people about the atrocities connected to these tragic  
6 events; and

7 WHEREAS, On this 97th anniversary of the Armenian  
8 Genocide, it is also appropriate to remember, honor, and thank  
9 those righteous ethnic Turks and Kurds who, often at risk to their  
10 own lives, lent aid, comfort, and assistance to ethnic Armenians  
11 seeking to escape the genocide; and

12 WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic,  
13 having embraced democracy following the dissolution of the Soviet  
14 Union; and

15 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest population of  
16 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched  
17 our state through leadership in business, agriculture, academia,  
18 medicine, government, and the arts, and they are proud and  
19 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; now, therefore, be  
20 it

21 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
22 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
23 hereby designates April 24, 2012, as the “California Day of  
24 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923;” and be  
25 it further

26 *Resolved*, That the State of California respectfully memorializes  
27 the Congress of the United States to act likewise to commemorate  
28 the Armenian Genocide; and be it further

29 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
30 this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of  
31 the United States Congress, the Governor, and Armenian churches  
32 and commemorative organizations in California.